

Message Text

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41/11

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 SAM-01 /093 W

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R 231505Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5545

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 01000

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN 1000 VICE 100)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PBOR MR SS MR AG LY

SUBJECT: SAHARA WATCH: MOROCCAN AND ALGERIAN COMMENTS

1. MOROCCAN CHARGE IN NOUAKCHOTT DISCUSSED LIBYAN INVOLVEMENT IN WESTERN SAHARA WITH EMBOFF APRIL 21. CHARGE CLAIMED MOROCCO IS AWARE OF ALL LIBYAN ACTIVITIES WHICH DEAL WITH SAHARA QUESTION. HE ARGUED THAT BY PROVIDING POLISARIO WITH MODEST QUANTITY OF ARMS THROUGH ALGERIA, LIBYA IS DOING MINIMUM NECESSARY FOR POLITICAL REASONS BUT NO MORE. MOROCCO CAN LIVE WITH CURRENT LIBYAN POLICY BECAUSE IT DOES NOT INTRODUCE SIGNIFICANT FACTOR INTO SAHAR AEQUATION AND ALL PARTIES CONCERNED, INCLUDING ALGERIA, UNDERSTAND THIS POINT. HE SAID LIBYAN RESTRAINT I DUE TO TWO FACTORS: (A) ABILITY OF MAURITANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MUUKNASS TO PLAY ON QADHAFIJS OBSESSION WITH "PURITY" OF MAURITANIAN ISLAMAC CULTURE AND (B) LIBYA'S RECOGNITION THAT MOROCCO HAS THE "PROFESSIONALS" TO RESPOND
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IN KIND TO ANY LIBYAN ADVENTURES IN MOROCCO AND MAURI-

TANIA. CHARGE WAS NOT CONCERNED ABOUT ACTIVITIES OF LIBYAN EMBASSY IN MAURITANIA. HE EMPHASIZED THAT MOROCCANS COULD AND WOULD MATCH ANYTHING LIBYANS MIGHT DO HERE WITH MOROCCAN "PROFESSIONALS" ALREADY IN NOUAKCHOTT. HE EXPECTS THAT LIBYA WILL CONTINUE ITS MODEST SUPPORT FOR POLISARIO WHILE MAKING A CONSCIOUS EFFORT TO LIMIT THE LEVEL OF ARMS SO THAT THE WEAPONS DO NOT PLAY A CRUCIAL ROLE.

2. ALGERIAN DIPLOMAT RECENTLY TOLD EMBOFF THAT ON APRIL 20 ALGIERS INSTRUCTED ALGERIAN OFFICIALS IN MAURITANIA TO PROVIDE AIR TICKETS TO ALGERIA FOR ALL ALGERIAN TECHNICIANS MWORKING IN MAURITANIA WHO ARE FUNDED BY GOA. ALGERIAN OFFICIALS SUBSEQUENTLY TICKETED ALL TECHNICIANS FOR ALGIERS VIA DAKAR. THEY WILL DEPART IN SEVERAL GROUPS RATHER THAN ALL AT THE SAME TIME. IN EACH CASE, NIGERIAN EMBASSY, WHICH HAS BEEN SELECTED TO HANDLE ALGERIAN INTERESTS, WILL FACILITATE DEPARTURE AT AIRPORT. THE ONLY ALGERIANS WHO WILL REMAIN IN MAURITANIA ARE THOSE EMPLOYED IN PRIVATE SECTOR OR WHOSE SALARIES ARE PAI BY GIRM. AFTER TECHNICIANS HAVE DEPARTED, REMAINING STAFF OF FORMER ALGERIAN EMBASSY WILL LEAVE. THIS OFTEN POSTPONED DEPARTURE SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY NEXT WEEK. DYSIDE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976NOUAKC01000
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760163-0429
From: NOUAKCHOTT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760429/aaaaayko.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAY 2004 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <07 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAHARA WATCH: MOROCCAN AND ALGERIAN COMMENTS
TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, MO, SS, MR, AG, LY
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006